Wednesday, November 23, 2011 ★★ 11 sections / Vol. 26 / No. 348 P18 | www.inquirer.net | Mobile Alert:

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER



HIGH COURT IN SESSION Supreme Court justices, led by Chief Justice Renato C. Corona (center), get ready to hear the oral arguments on the case involving former President and now Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo at the session hall on Tuesday. The other justices in the picture are (from left) Antonio T. Carpio, Bienvenido L. Reyes (behind Corona), Maria Lourdes P.A. Sereno and Presbitero J. Velasco Jr.

SC readies Luisita ruling

Maguindanao massacre trial could take '55,000 yrs'

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE DAY-TO-DAY legal clashes in court may have become more intense and personal but there's still no end in sight to the trial of close to 200 defendants in connection with the Maguindanao massacre case.

To speed up hearings, private prosecutor Harry Roque has recommended trimming the number of defendants from 196 to just 35 to focus on those who were primarily responsible for the planning and killing two years ago of 57 people, mostly media workers.

He said the other defendants could be charged with lesser offenses. "At the rate we are going, it could take us at least 20 years to finish this," Roque said.

At present, there are 196 defendants, each of whom are facing 57 cases. "That's 11,172 cases. And incrementally...

MAGUINDANAO A12



IN MEMORIAM Catholic priest Fr. Robert Reyes blesses the ground where some of the 57 massacre victims were found on Nov. 23, 2009, at Ampatuan town in Maguindanao province.

Justices want land given to farmers

By Marlon Ramos

THE SUPREME Court is poised to settle once and for all the decades-old dispute over Hacienda Luisita, agreeing on a motion for reconsideration to redistribute the vast sugar plantation owned by the family of President Aquino, the INQUIRER learned yesterday.

Three Inquirer sources said the high court could likely issue a ruling within the next few days amid an intensifying disagreement between the high tribunal and President Aquino's administration over the prosecution of former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo for alleged election sabotage. (See story on Page A10).

The sources, including a senior court official, said the majority of the justices had voted to direct the "total distribution" of the 6,000-hectare sugar planta-

SUPREME A19

2 years after, 8-yr-old girl still cries for her mama

By Aquiles Z. Zonio
Inquirer Mindanao

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Mention her mother's name and 8-year-old Khully Mae Momtano Bhalla quickly breaks into tears.

"She can't sleep alone. She must constantly be in the company of others. She can't be left alone," her grandmother, Nancy Maata, said.

Khully Mae is the youngest of two children of Marife "Neneng" Montano, publisher of Saksi News, who was among at least 32 journalists and media workers slaughtered in Ampatuan town in Maguindanao on Nov. 23, 2009. They were ab-

2 YEARS A11

GMA fails to get high court relief this time

By Marlon Ramos

NOT this time.

After earlier getting from the Supreme Court a temporary restraining order (TRO) on their inclusion in the immigration watch list, former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and her husband, Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, have failed to secure injunctive relief that would have invalidated the election sabotage case filed against her as well as her arrest on Nov. 18.

The high court yesterday voted 10-4 not to grant the former First Couple's urgent petition for a TRO seeking to stop the joint panel of the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Commission on Elections (Comelec) from investigating the alleged cheating in the 2007 Senate elections in Mindanao. Instead, it decided to hear the arguments of the executive branch before issuing a ruling on the matter.

"There is no [TRO] on a status

GMA A19

Much ado about GMA, Erap mug shots



By Christian V. Esguerra

A 10-YEAR-OLD mug shot of former President Joseph Estrada has apparently revived bitter memories, and left the deposed ruler fuming.

"There's no basis of comparison," Estrada said in a phone interview. "She did all those illegal acts but . . . I was a victim of a big conspiracy involving the political opposition, the Church, the military, all of them."

Estrada was commenting on the publication by the Inquirer on Monday of his mug shot together with a story on the arrest of former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo on a charge of electoral sabotage. Estrada's picture shows him

MUCH A19

Mike Arroyo now free to go anytime, anywhere

By Marlon Ramos and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE HUSBAND of former President and now Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is now free to travel anywhere in the world anytime he wants to.

In an order, Chief State Counsel Ricardo Paras III revoked the watch-list order it previously issued on Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo and seven others as a result of the investigation conducted by a joint panel of the Department of Justice (DOJ) and Commission on Elections (Comelec) into the alleged fraud in the 2007

MIKE A19



Second FrontPage

EZ2	
11	26
22	8
15	2

SUERTRES		
3	8	0
4	4	1
4	0	4

SIX DIGIT: 2 2 8 4 9 3

6/42 LUZ-VIS-MIN: 5 6 10 15 39 40 — P3,000,000.00

SUPERLOTTO 6/49: 10 25 30 36 37 45 — P95,322,343.60

Senate passes ₱1.8-T budget

THE SENATE yesterday overwhelmingly approved on third and final reading the proposed P1.816-trillion national budget for next year with the lone dissent voiced by Sen. Joker Arroyo.

WB cuts PH growth forecast

Generally well-positioned



'Anti-epal' bill tackled by Senate

Change in behavior

HIV infections down worldwide, up in PH

By Jerry E. Esplanada

NEW HIV infections and deaths from AIDS-related illness are falling worldwide, except in the Philippines and Bangladesh, where the number of new HIV cases continues to rise.

In its Nov. 21 report, the United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) disclosed that "since 1997, new infections (worldwide) have been reduced by 21 percent while deaths from AIDS-related illnesses decreased by 21 percent since 2005."

But the Philippines was one of seven nations in the world which reported a surge in new HIV infections of over 25 percent, said the 2011 Global AIDS report released by UNAIDS.

UNAIDS said that on a scale of one to 10—with 10 being the most alarming—the HIV/AIDS problem in the Philippines was "five nationally." But it was "already right to view it specific areas mainly associated with officially reported HIV prevalence."

When contacted, the UNAIDS office in Manila noted that the Philippines had not been making progress in meeting its sixth Millennium Development Goal, which is halting and reversing the spread of the dreaded HIV/AIDS.

UNAIDS social mobilization adviser Marcelino Apilado called the Philippines "one of the exceptions in the region."

"The number of HIV infections and AIDS cases here continue to go up, not down," Apilado told the Inquirer.

Earlier, Teresita Marie Bagasao, head of the UNAIDS Manila office, observed "current efforts are not enough to reverse Department of Health estimates of a five-fold increase in new HIV infections in the next five years."

"We need to act now and invest in the right programs and policies that foster government, civil society and private sector partnership in the prevention of the disease," said Bagasao.

She pointed out that anti-HIV/AIDS programs here "remain unfunded or underfunded and have not been able to keep up with the change and pace in HIV transmission."

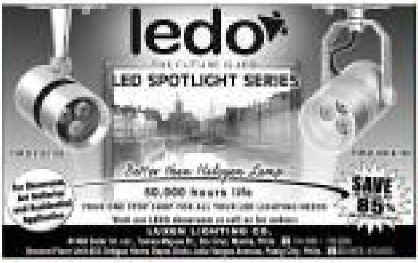
UNAIDS said there were an estimated 34 people living with HIV worldwide in 2010, but since 2005, AIDS-related deaths have decreased from 2.2 million to 1.8 million in 2010.

"About 2.5 million deaths are estimated to have been averted in low- and middle-income countries due to increased access to HIV treatment," it said.

The human immunodeficiency virus, or HIV leads to AIDS, or acquired immune deficiency syndrome, a condition in which the body's immune system is attacked, weakened and disabled by the virus, ultimately leading to death.

HIV is transmitted through sex or blood transfusion.

"People living with HIV are living longer and AIDS-related deaths are declining due to the lifesaving effects of antiretroviral therapy," UNAIDS said.









Ateneo seeks dialogue with mining industry

By Tarra Quismundo

THE ATENEO de Manila University is seeking a dialogue with the country's mining industry in hopes of improving its mining-related research and clearing the air amid the differences over the effects of mining on the environment.

Fr. Jose Villarin, the Ateneo president, extended the invitation to a dialogue after the Chamber of Mines, in an advertisement published yesterday, assailed as "a farce" the Ateneo's "The Future of Mining in the Philippines" conference which was held yesterday.

"Instead of attacking the school and the conference, we ask them to come to the table and sit down with us to tell us where ASoG (Ateneo School of Government) did not get it right and how to improve our research," said Villarin in a statement.

The Chamber of Mines has criticized ASoG for what the business group said was its anti-mining bias.

In an advertisement in newspapers yesterday, the chamber said ASoG had largely excluded the mining industry from its conference.

"The ASoG conference on 'The Future of Mining in the Philippines' is a farce. We will not allow ourselves to be drawn into a forum disguised as an academic conference," it said in the ad.

The mining group said "none from the industry were invited as presenters" to the conference and that its members, while asked to serve as reactors, were given little time to review the "educational" papers.

"How can a conference on 'The Future of the Mining Industry'... take place without the participation of the industry? This certainly runs counter to ASoG's claim that it is a school that 'fosters possible a learning process that bridges the gap between classroom wisdom and real-world policy decision making and governance,'" the group said.

Villarin said the chamber "misunderstood the nature of the academic conference" and, contrary to the group's claim, those who were chosen to make the presentations "do not have a reputation [of being anti-mining] or a record on mining."

"I reject the accusation that all the presenters are known to be antimining... In fact, they were chosen precisely because of their ability to be objective and independent," said the Ateneo president.

Stuck in the Plight of Traditional Cancer Treatment? A New Treatment is Here: Freeze the Tumor. Cryosurgery Therapy Provides Cancer Patients with a Total Curative Resection.

Tumor resection has become the preferred clinical treatment. However, trauma due to resection is quite significant. 70% -80% of newly diagnosed cancer patients admitted to hospitals have already lost the opportunity to have a radical surgery. The common reasons are: tumor is very large, tumor metastasis, entire removal of organs will affect the normal function; the patient's physical condition or heart and lung functions cannot withstand the trauma of a large (chest, abdominal) surgery. Therefore, a new minimally invasive ablation therapy directed only on the tumor gives cancer patients a new choice in eliminating the tumor and the burden it brings.

Guangzhou Modern Cancer Hospital chief expert Professor Peng Xiaodi describes the new technology used to treat cancer patients in recent years. Cryosurgery therapy uses very low temperatures to freeze tumors and slowly kill them. It is a very minimally invasive procedure with very little to no side effects; a reason why it is called a "green" therapy. Cryosurgery, in comparison with chemotherapy, greatly increases the patient survival rate and living quality, something which is now becoming a global trend.

Professor Peng Xiaodi said this type of treatment is not the same as other treatments where trauma and physical pain are significant. This type of treatment only requires a very short hospital confinement; nonetheless, it is still capable of killing cancer cells. This is the most ideal choice for cancer patients.

Cryosurgery therapy of middle to advanced malignant tumors reflects one aspect of comprehensive treatment to make up for the lack of chemotherapy. Cryosurgical "knife" is not defined in the traditional sense. It was developed in the United States through the use of more than 20 aerospace technology patents of argon-helium treatment system, commonly known as "super-cold argon-helium knife". During surgery, there will be three different types of temperature probes inserted into the the corresponding location of the tumor. Argon gas will be released to freeze the lesions to -140° in just 10 seconds where the tumor will be turned into a hard ice-like object similar to an ice hockey puck. 15 minutes later, the helium gas will quickly thaw the puck causing rapid warming with temperatures ranging from 20° to 40°, this will make cancer cells burst, destroying the lesions.



Its unique targeting system and quick freezing to destroy tumor tissues, together with a one-time maximum normal tissue preservation, achieved huge success in advanced liver cancer, lung cancer, pancreatic cancer, prostate cancer, kidney cancer, breast cancer and the treatment of benign tumors. After nearly 6 years, thousands of cases showed that cryosurgery destruction of tumor cells can be done quickly, with less trauma, good clinical effect, high success rate and very few complications. Cryosurgery has been the first choice of cancer experts in the international community.

广州现代肿瘤医院
Guangzhou Modern Cancer Hospital

Manila Office Medical Affairs Expert Add.

Tel. Nos.: (02) 3531554 • 0915 4842818 • 0922 8083333

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DND prepares shopping list of military hardware from Korea

THE DEPARTMENT of National Defense (DND) will come up with a list of the military hardware that it wants to acquire from South Korea.

During the visit of South Korean President Lee Myung-bak on Monday, President Aquino said the Philippines was interested to acquire military-grade helicopters, boats and other aircraft from South Korea to boost the military.

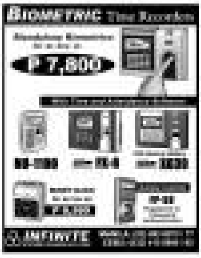
Since he assumed office last year, Mr. Aquino has begun upgrading the military which only has old warships and seaplanes to secure the Malampaya oil platform off Palawan and the country's territorial claims in the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea).

Defense spokesperson Zosimo Paredes said the DND is still preparing the list. But he said he did not know how the acquisition would be made.

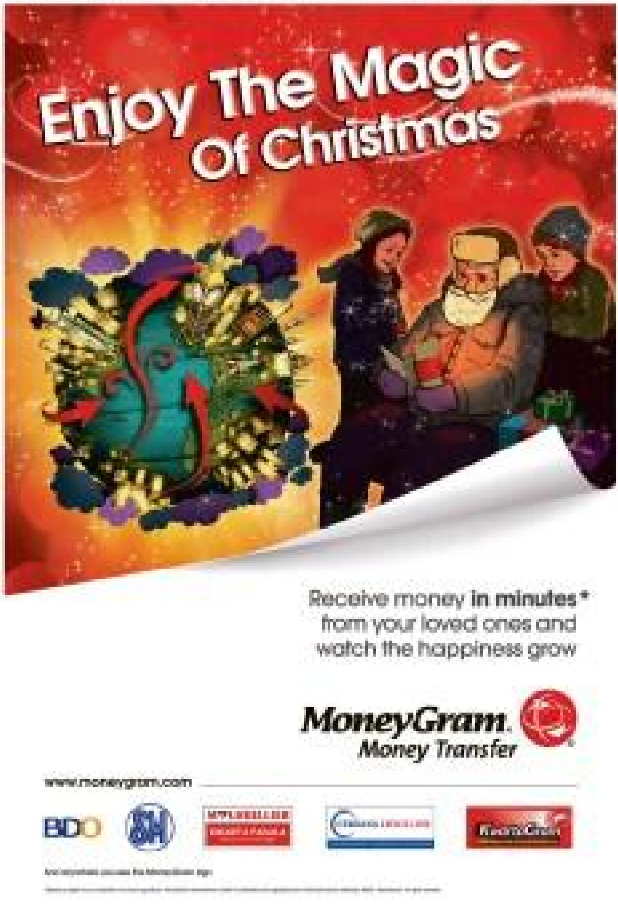
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FDA gives tips on how to tell if drugs are fake













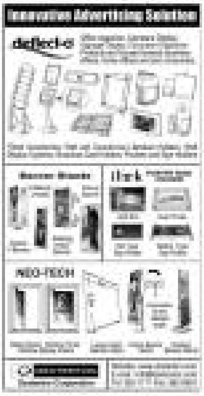
DepEd sets aside P10M for teachers' skills training

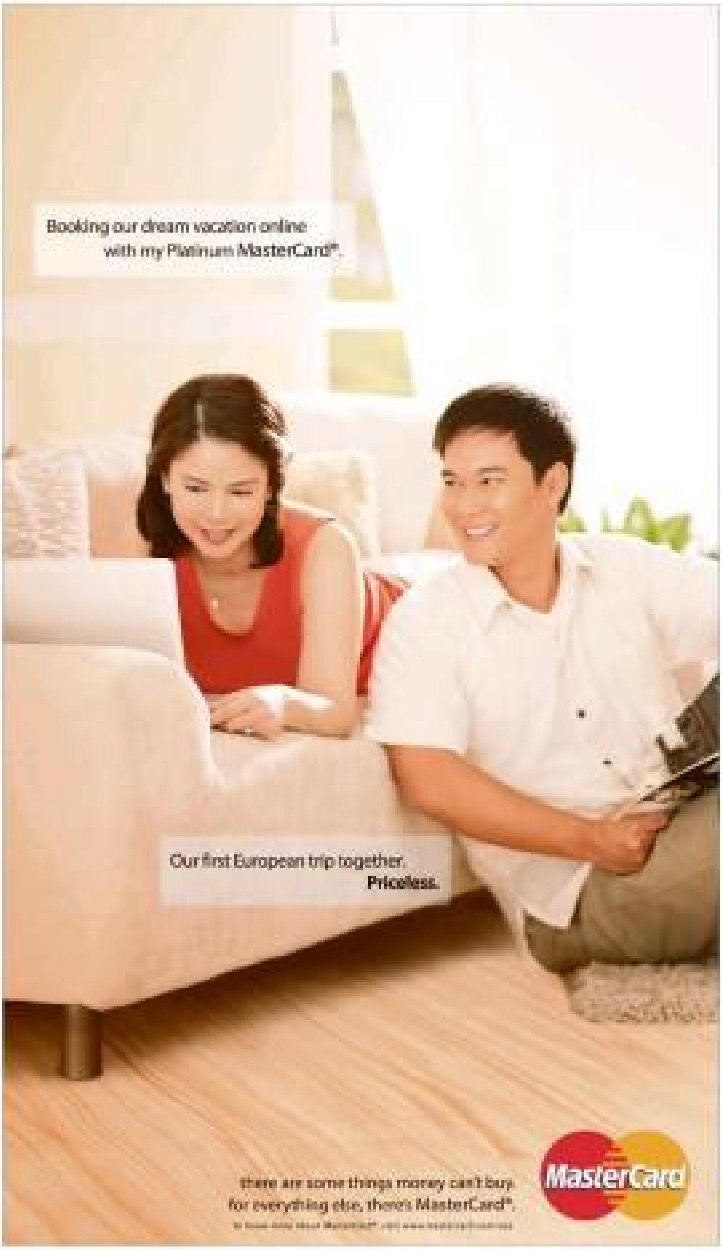












INQUIRER Northern Luzon

‘Belen’ dioramas light up Tarlac towns









Tarlac City

ONCE AGAIN, more than 100 “belen” (Nativity dioramas) in various shapes and sizes lit up Tarlac as the province started preparing for the Christmas holidays through the “Belenismo.”



Filipinized

HOMETOWN Snapshot



FVR honors pa with ‘11-11-11’

Lingayen, Pangasinan

FORMER President Fidel V. Ramos couldn’t have chosen a more symbolic date to launch a book honoring his father, the late Ambassador Narciso “Nacho” Ramos.

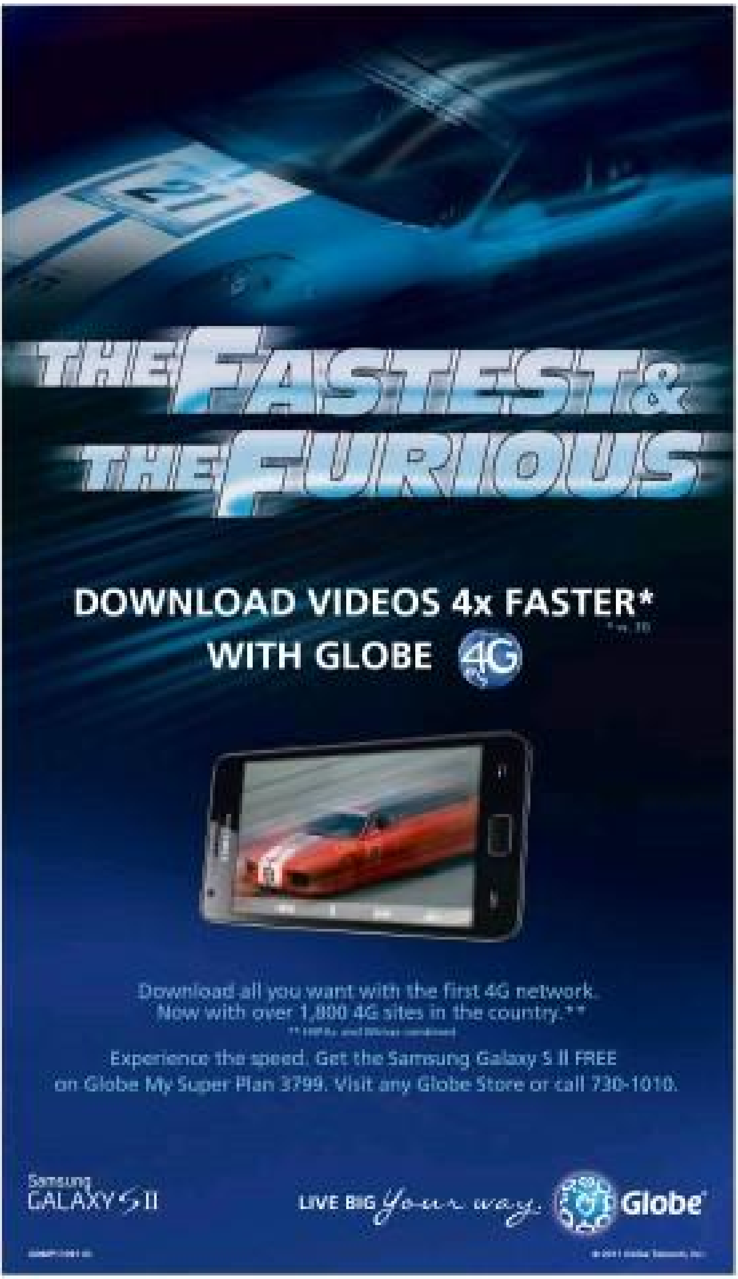
PEOPLE

Guide

Going full speed ahead with the biggest network rollout of Globe

Fasten your seatbelt and prepare to move full speed ahead with the biggest and most massive network rollout of Globe Telecom, giving you an unparalleled experience when you text, call or surf on your mobile phone. Globe takes service quality to a new level of performance with the rollout of its biggest network modernization program utilizing modern network technologies, providing subscribers with a more stable and reliable service experience.

The program will entail massive re-planning of the entire Globe network to make sure that Filipino consumers can experience the service quality they want from a communications company. With a modernized network, Globe customers can expect significant improvements through reduced incidence of dropped calls, on-time delivery of text messages, and easier call connections even at peak hours and traffic-heavy occasions.



Network quality will be boosted by 50% more fiber optics which will provide a significant increase in capacity plus enhanced 2G/3G indoor and outdoor coverage that will be deployed even in the farthest towns and municipalities. The company's 4G network, the first and the biggest in the country with over 1,800 sites, will also continue its aggressive expansion nationwide under the program, enabling users to download videos and other multimedia content 4x faster with minimal to zero buffering.

In modernizing network equipment like switch circuits, Globe subscribers can also anticipate a consistent quality of experience in the midst of extreme weather disturbances. Service availability even during prolonged commercial power outage during disasters, especially for critical sites, will be enhanced so subscribers will experience full, reliable, uninterrupted service during disasters. Resiliency and protection of traffic will likewise increase to reduce incidence of product network outages, while better network management will hasten service restoration and recovery when necessary.

Globe will allot US$700 million to support the project over the next five years, with a project rollout period of two to three years. This amount is the biggest and most significant investment that Globe has undertaken in the past two decades.

"The network transformation program is definitely another milestone for Globe. The key to delivering quality products and services is having a strong and solid network infrastructure," said Robert Tan, Chief Technical Adviser of Globe. "With this modernization program in place, we are evolving to become a multi-service network with a solid, fully redundant system that allows uninterrupted, seamless and consistent network connectivity for our subscribers, keeping them always connected with Globe," added Tan.

The company will be tapping Huawei, a leading global information and communications technology (ICT) solutions provider. Through its dedication to customer-centric innovation and strong partnerships, Huawei has established end-to-end advantages in telecom networks, devices and cloud computing. It is committed to creating maximum value for telecom operators, enterprises and consumers by providing competitive solutions and services. Its products and solutions have been deployed in over 140 countries, serving more than one third of the world's population.

Talks with Reds are back to zero

Impasse over NDF men's detention is key issue

DAVAO CITY—Talks between the government and communist-led National Democratic Front (NDF), brokered by Norway, are back to zero because of the two sides' failure to break an impasse over a communist demand for the release of political prisoners, a government negotiator said.



CHILD LABOR

60 workers rescued from plantation recruiters



Transport groups told: Stop buying from abusive oil firms

1,000 ha of Mindanao banana farms ruined

Gov't measures to stop 'Panama disease' branded as 'exercise in futility'

De Oro inmates' transfer rushed after tunnel find



A JAIL officer takes a closer look at the mouth of the tunnel that leads to cells at the Cagayan de Oro jail where two Iranians convicted of human trafficking and Chinese drug convicts are being held.

Arroyo sued by kin of massacre victims



Maguindanao massacre trial could take '55,000 years'

Today is int'l day to end impunity

2 years after, 8-year-old girl still cries for her mama

P-Noy OKs climate change plan







PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
OPINION

Stronger cases

EDITORIAL

[illegible]



Is GMA faking her illness?

AS I SEE IT



Neal H. Cruz

[illegible]

How the mighty have fallen

THERE'S THE RUB



Conrado de Quiros

[illegible]

Start of a gang-up

Analysis

Amando Doronila



Young impunity

Pinoy Kasi

Michael L. Tan



Opening our eyes to impunity

At Large

Rina Jimenez-David

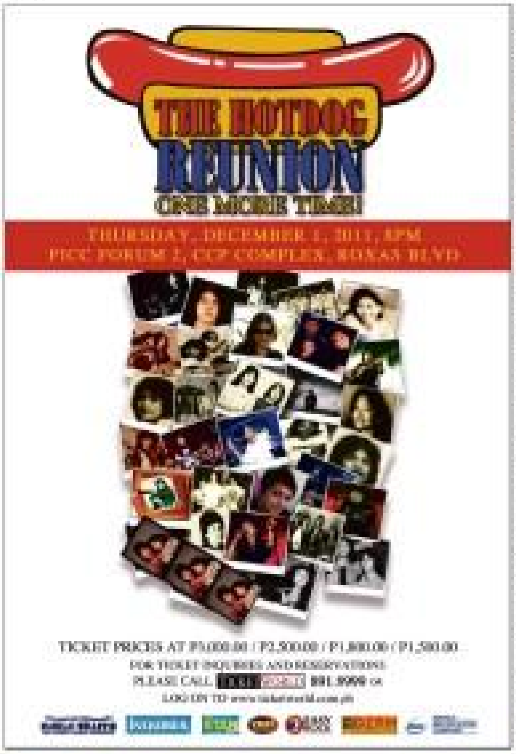


'Mukhang pera!'

Looking Back

Ambeth R. Ocampo







Respect SC decision? Look who's talking

LETTERS

Improving lives is the real measure of success

Garbage collectors should be given sanitary gloves

Our old people

COMMENTARY

Denis Murphy

Read-Along Festival set Nov. 28-29 in UP-Diliman

Corrections

The Daily Gospel







Palace says Pasay RTC now the 'battleground' on GMA case

By Christine O. Avendaño

Political will

Hospital arrest

GMA fails to get relief from the high court this time

FROM PAGE A1

Consolidated petitions

'To know the truth'

Like 'a real man'

Mike Arroyo now free to go anytime, anywhere

FROM PAGE A1

Circular No. 41

Free to go

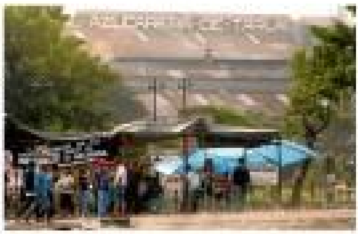
No pressing need for GMA travel abroad, says Ona

By Leila B. Salaverria and Jocelyn R. Uy

Certification

Legal problem

Supreme Court readies Luisita ruling



More than coincidental

Referendum

WHAT WENT BEFORE

Hands-off policy

Reform program

Much ado about mug shots of GMA, Erap



Sympathy ridicule

Good for business

Similarity

A different line

Law not clear

SPORTS

Filipinos bungle Games mission

Rañola, Ong, Alquiros shine brightest for PH



Boxing shooting for 'bigger' golds





Tiu blasts 'absurd' state of sports



MVP's P10M produces dozen wins

Two killed, four injured in football final stampede

Gin Kings feeling urgency, battle rejuvenated Aces

Freego five works extra shift, turns back Cobra

By Cedelf P. Tupas

Adamson ousts JRU

Letran gives La Salle the boot

By Jasmine W. Payo



JAN Colina (left) of Adamson tries to make a pass under pressure from Jose Rizal's Mark Lopez.

Que, Miñoza banner ICTSI golf

By Cedelf P. Tupas

Yes Pogi tops SMC-Marho race

SPORTSWATCH

180 fights in Caloocan derby today

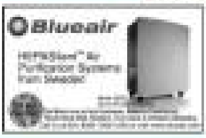
'Bakbakan' last round at PCC

PAL LADIES INTERCLUB

Southwoods leads Del Monte by 4


IT'S ALWAYS BEST TO SURF SMART
Experience extraordinarily fast surfing with speeds of up to 42mbps*.
Go online anytime, anywhere with SMART's 1,200 HSPA+ sites nationwide and counting
Enjoy awesome devices like the Rocket WiFi Plus that blasts up to 20mbps*
SMART
SMART boasts of the widest coverage, fastest speeds, and awesome devices. Enjoy your best surfing experience yet from the leader in mobile broadband, SMART.

A plus METRO
Editor: Abelardo S. Ulanday





Gangs of minors rob tourist, shop

Kids posing as beggars, armed teen worry cop


THE FAMILY THAT EATS TOGETHER... A family cooperatively in Barangay Payatas, Quezon City [illegible]

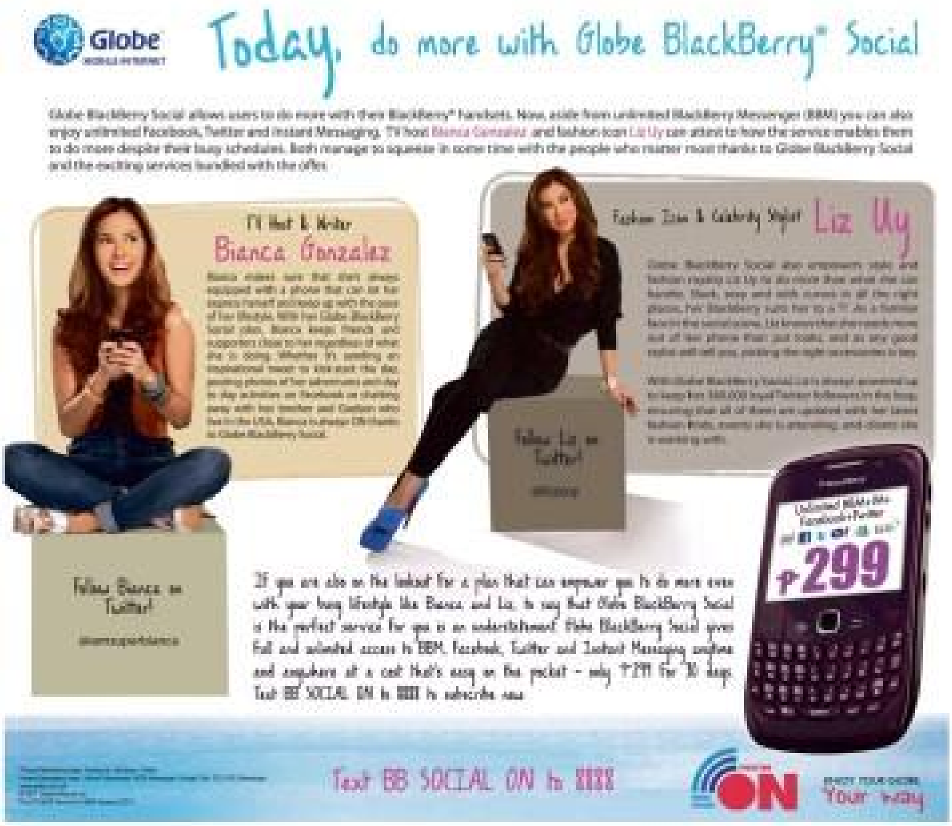
By Jeannette I. Andrade

SO YOUNG yet so well on their way to ending up on the wrong side of the law.

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DID YOU KNOW

[illegible]



Valenzuela City reports drop in dengue cases

Cop charged after his gun, ID found on 2 suspects

Lure of reward money results in man's death

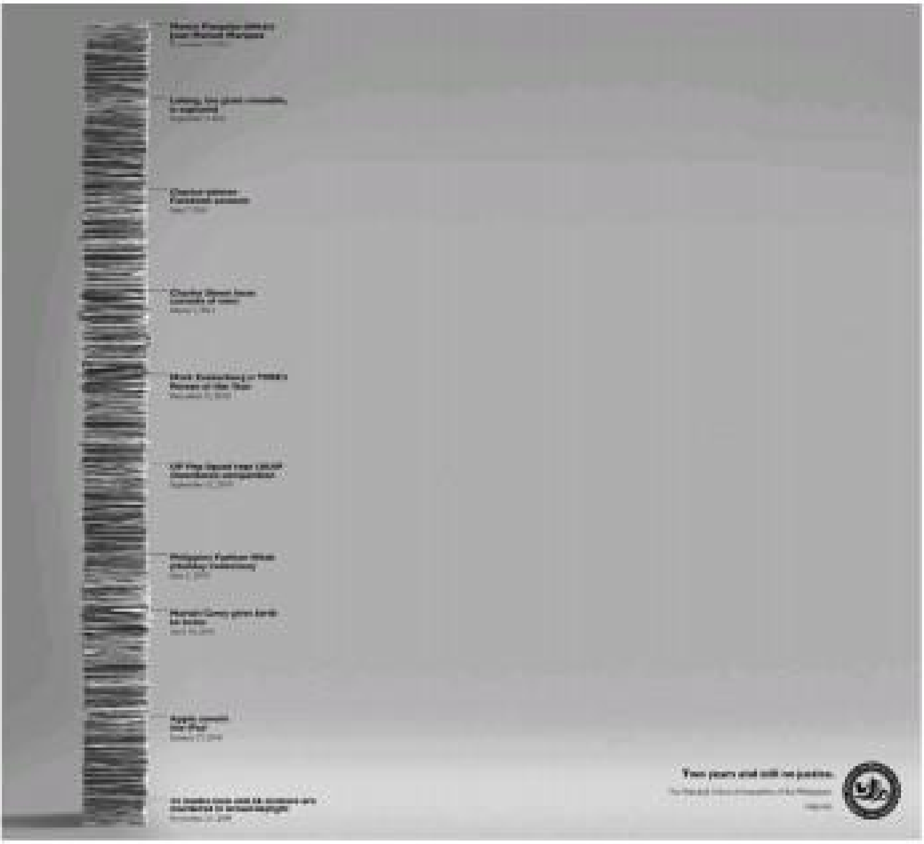
2-hour fire hits building under construction

MetroBriefs

Cause of fire in mall still under investigation

Vendor killed beside sleeping partner

Thief caught in customs bureau compound



Libya's new leader to name new Cabinet



LIBYAN Prime Minister Abdurrahim El-Keib

US, UK, Canada impose new sanctions on recalcitrant Iran

WORLDBRIEFS

1,000 police protest in Sydney

Syria accuses European of diplomatic war

Yemen head to sign power transfer plan

Cambodians remember stampede victims

University police chief on leave over crackdown

San Beda Law Alumni Homecoming

The San Beda Law Alumni Association in cooperation with the Law Class '61 (Golden Jubilarians), Law Class '71 (Ruby Jubilarians) and Law Class '86 (Silver Jubilarians) invites all Bedan law graduates to a Grand Alumni Homecoming on Thursday, November 24, 2011. This will be held at Club Filipino, 6:00 p.m. Special Guest of Honor and Speaker is Vice President Jejomar Binay. For details, please contact Ms. Wilma Abellanosa at tel.

The WORLD



AN EGYPTIAN protester flashes the victory sign during clashes with Egyptian riot police in Cairo's Tahrir Square. AP

Egypt gov't quits; 26 die in clashes

CAIRO—Egypt's Cabinet said it had resigned amid deadly clashes between police and protesters demanding political change that have killed 26 and prompted the ruling military to call for crisis talks.

On the eve of a new wave of protests planned for later on Tuesday, the Cabinet announced its resignation on the third day of protests that have triggered Egypt's worst crisis since president Hosni Mubarak was toppled in February.

Two people were killed early Tuesday in the first few hours of hostilities, medics said, bringing the toll of clashes since Saturday to 26.

"The government of Prime Minister Essam Sharaf has handed its resignation to the (ruling) Supreme Council of the Armed Forces," Cabinet spokesperson Mohammed Hegazy said in a statement on Monday.

State television quoted a military source as saying the military council had rejected the resignation, but Information Minister Osama Heikal told the official MENA news agency the matter had not yet been decided.

Sharaf's resignation, if accepted, threatens to derail parliamentary elections scheduled for November 28—the first polls since Mubarak's downfall.

The Supreme Council of the Armed Forces (SCAF), which took power when Mubarak was ousted, "invited all the political and national forces for an emergency dialogue to look into the reasons behind the aggravation of the current crisis and ways to resolve it as quickly as possible," it said in a statement carried by MENA.

It said it had asked the justice ministry to set up a committee to shed light on the violence, and called on "all forces and citizens to commit to (restoring) calm, and creating an atmosphere of stability with the goal of pursuing the political process."

Amnesty International charged that Egypt's military rulers had failed to live up to their promises and had even committed worse rights abuses than the Mubarak regime.

Tens of thousands of people packed Cairo's iconic Tahrir Square on Monday night, after clashes continued for a third straight day between protesters and police in and around the square.

They praised news of the cabinet's resignation with jubilance, calling for the removal of the military rulers as clashes continued around the nearby interior ministry headquarters.

Riot police fired volleys of bird shot, rubber bullets and tear gas at demonstrators who used stones and petrol bombs. Other protesters formed a corridor through which the injured were ferried into waiting ambulances. AFP

BUSINESS

Korean to put up Subic power plant

200-MW coal-fed facility to supply Hanjin's energy requirements

By Abigail L. Ho

HANJIN Heavy Industries and Construction Co. Ltd.-Philippines Inc. will put up a 200-megawatt (MW) power plant within the Subic Bay Economic Zone to supply its electricity requirements.

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

Nov. 22, 2011

43.240



STOCK MARKET

Nov. 22, 2011

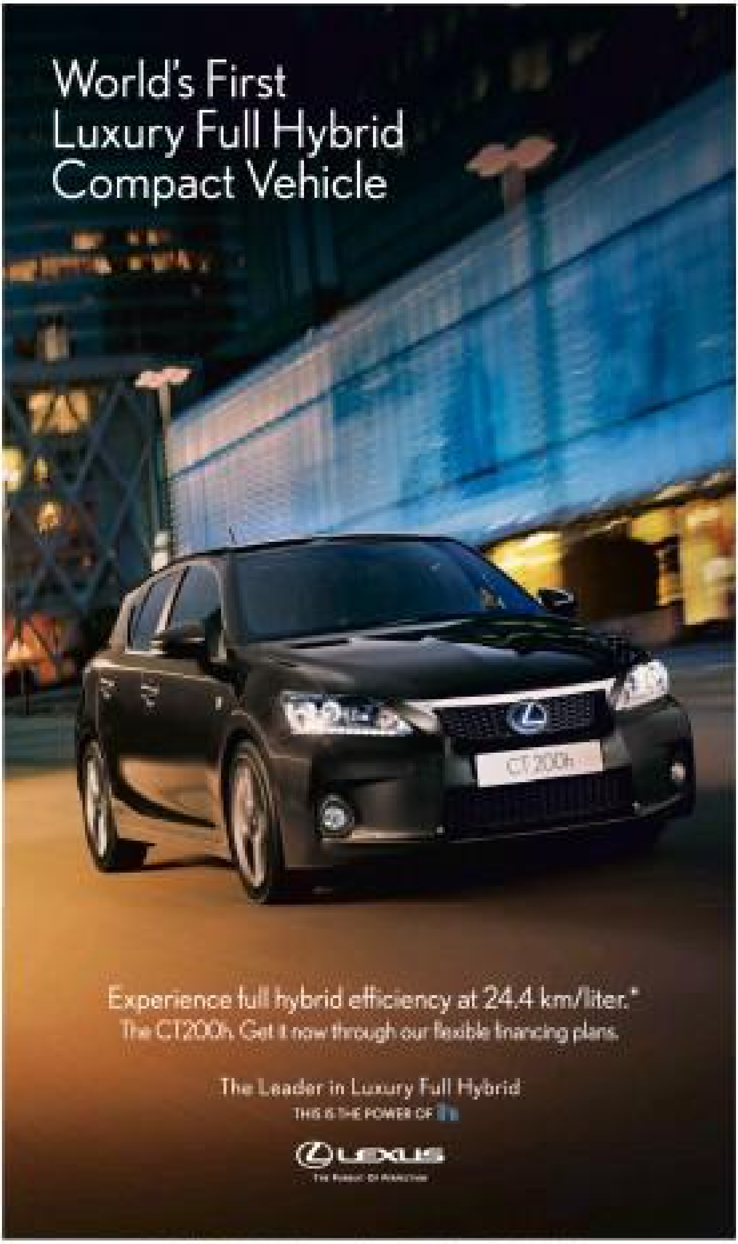
9.72



Stocks continue to weaken

9-month foreign investment pledges up 9.9%

By Riza T. Olchondra



MVP firm asserts right over connector road plan

Says Citra can submit own proposal to government

By Paolo G. Montecillo

Active Alliance suspends trading of shares on PSE

Jollibee sells coffee shop unit for ₱20M

Korean to put up . . .

From page B1

9-month foreign . . .

From page B1

Philippine Stock Exchange

Currencies

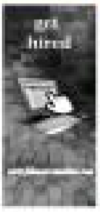
'No Lopez hand'





BIZ BUZZ

By the staff

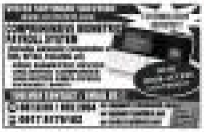




Lou fires back

Another Tan daughter in PAL





Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

INVITATION TO BID

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF ISABELA

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY & TO BID

niaconsult, inc.

INVITATION TO BID

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF ISABELA

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY & TO BID



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture

INVITATION TO BID

Republic of the Philippines

INVITATION TO BID

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INVITATION TO BID

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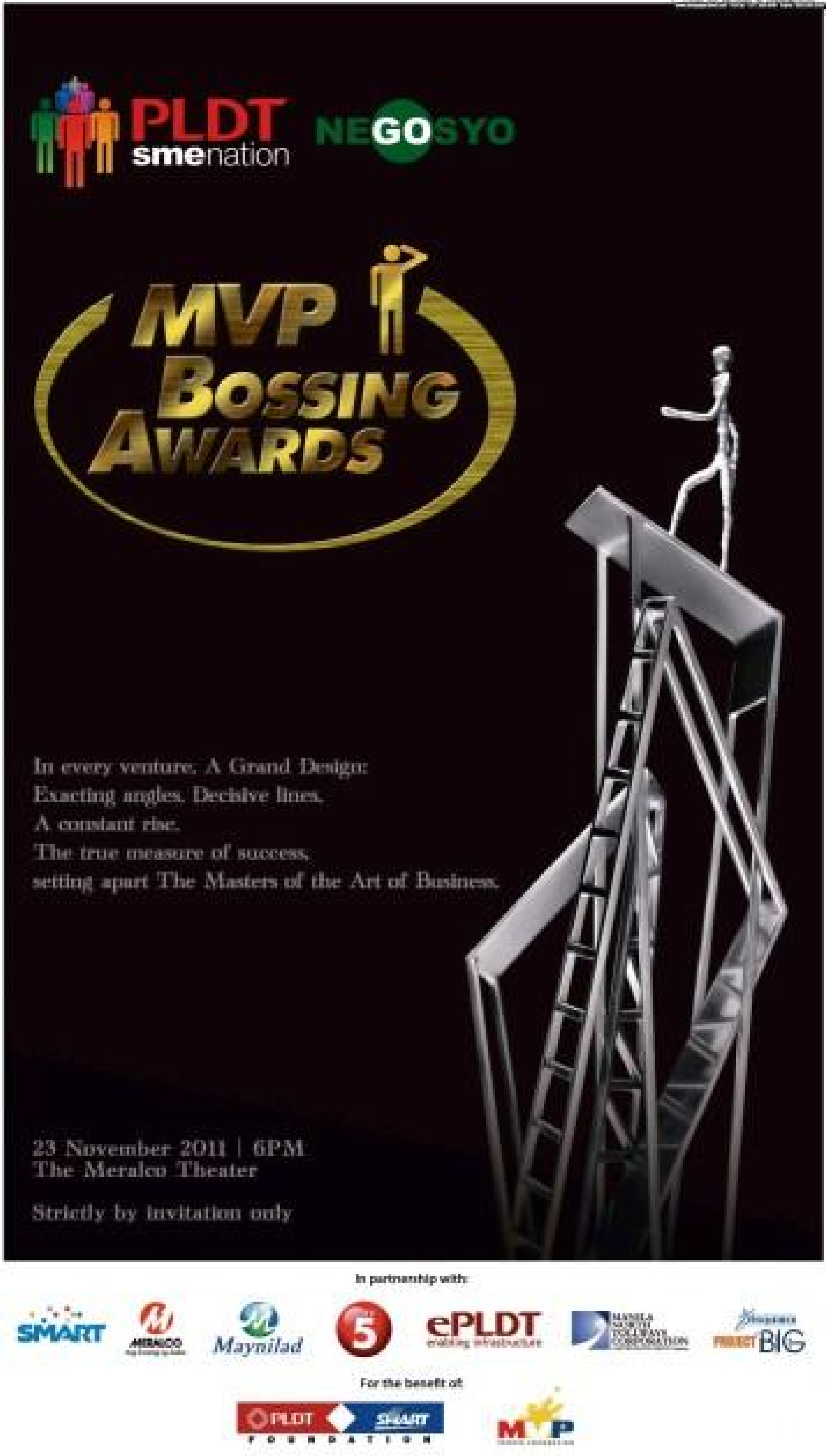
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BUSINESS

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Rules expected to be finalized by 1st quarter of 2012

INVITATION TO BID

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Contracting of UN Common Maintenance and Sanitation Services

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), on behalf of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT), invites local companies to apply for eligibility and to bid for the subcontract for the "UN Common Maintenance and Sanitation Services".

Procurement and Administrative Services
United Nations Development Programme
Makati City

Procurement and Administrative Services

DON MARIANO MARCOS MEMORIAL STATE UNIVERSITY

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

DON MARIANO MARCOS MEMORIAL STATE UNIVERSITY

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Towers Watson's resource center in PH to boost global operations

Banks post 12% income growth

Increase driven by interest earnings

Weak electronics demand seen further pulling down PH exports

The younger, the better

Money Matters
Randell Tiongson



First Gen boosting capital

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National Bureau of Investigation

"NBI: Ang Inyong Kaag









The National Bureau of Investigation





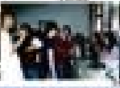
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The NBI under the P-Noy Administration





...ears

NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Business

Microinsurance makes headway

Investors now eyeing PH

China wage inflation drives business to Manila

Rural institutions get Land Bank's support



South East Asian body shortlists Arya Residences in best condo development award



ARYA RESIDENCES

MOTORING

Thai Spice

Why auto manufacturers prefer Thailand over the PH



WORLD-CLASS quality vehicles produced by a skilled and still relatively cheap workforce have given Thailand a lot of business.

On the Road
Aida Sevilla Mendoza

BEFORE THE worst flooding in 50 years engulfed Thailand beginning last October, the Thai Automotive Industry Association (TAIA) was forecasting that it would become the world's 10th biggest automobile manufacturer with total production of over 2.5 million units annually before the 2016 target year, up from the 12th position the country holds now aside from its rank as the world's No. 1 producer of one-ton trucks. TAIA optimism was based on the devastating earthquake and tsunami that damaged several car electronic component plants in northeastern Japan last March and severely disrupted the global supply chain of carmakers.

Ironically enough, now it is Thailand's watery crisis that has caused a second global supply chain disruption within a year, with the impact of its extensive floods being felt around the world, underscoring the country's growing importance as a supplier of auto parts and computer components. IHS Automotive, a market forecasting company based in Detroit, estimates that Thai auto production will fall to 1.65 million units this year from 1.8 million.

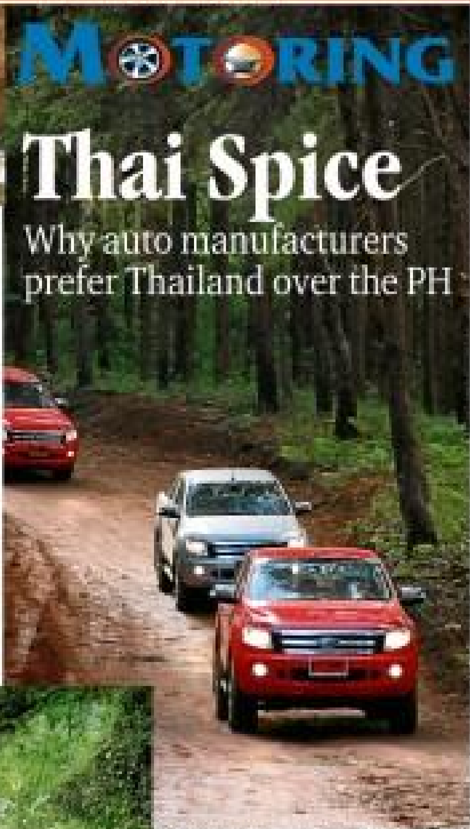
So far, some major auto makers like General Motors and Nissan are still operating normally in Thailand, but Toyota Motor Co., Ford Motor Co. and Mitsubishi Motors, although not physically affected by the flooding, have suspended production to assess the impact on key parts suppliers, many of whom are located in a flooded industrial estate north of Bangkok. Toyota was forced to slow production in factories in Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, North America, Pakistan, the Philippines, South Africa and Vietnam.

Submerged

The worst affected is Honda Motor Co., since one of its factories and factory supply plants remain submerged under meters of water, closing down 4.7 percent of global output. If it takes three months for the flooded plants to reopen, Honda could lose the production of 60,000 cars, trimming $505 million from its operating profit. The global rollout of redesigned 2012 models like the CR-V could also be delayed.

Thailand became a major export hub for GM, Ford and Japanese carmakers in the 1980s and 1990s, relegating two other Southeast Asian countries including the Philippines that were bidding to host their manufacturing facilities and auto supply plants. Now that Thailand is struggling to normalize the business operations of investors, will the car manufacturers diversify their operations to other countries like the Philippines?

Not likely, the heads of several foreign business companies in Thailand say. The majority of companies affected by the flooding would rebuild their factories in Thailand because their customers and suppliers are in Thailand. They will not leave the country in a stampede because Thailand remains relatively inexpensive and "a nice place to live" despite the flooding. However, foreign investors said that the government should implement flood prevention measures and a water management master plan to cope with more monsoon rains next year, an inescapable natural phenomenon in an era of global warming and rising sea levels.



THE NEW Ford Ranger being test driven in Chiang Rai, Thailand



GENERAL Motors also chose Chiang Rai and Chiang Mai for a press preview of the Chevrolet Colorado.

Reasons

An auto industry expert and marketer Thailand resident cited the reasons why automakers want to rely heavily on Thailand despite the predictable flood patterns. One, he said, is world class quality produced by a skilled and still relatively cheap workforce. Another is Thailand's proximity to a growing Southeast Asian market of 592 million consumers. Another is an enlightened regulatory approach. Thailand was much more willing much earlier than Malaysia, Indonesia and China to allow foreigners to dispense with joint ventures and own 100 percent of their factories.

Then there is Thailand's infrastructure advantage. Although the country doesn't equal China or Singapore in the capacity to faithfully execute five-year road, bridge, tunnel and port plans, when traffic jams and other problems reach intolerable levels, the government pushes enough to do something about it. For instance, they built a reasonably well-functioning elevated expressway system around Bangkok and a new, world-class international airport.

From a business perspective, writes Business Asia columnist Joseph Sternberg in The Wall Street Journal, the more important issue is policy credibility: "Managers understand that natural disasters happen everywhere. Supply chain diversification hinders production where the benefits of operating in a place (labor skills and costs, tax and trade policies, other regulatory burdens) outweigh the costs of whatever disaster to which that area is prone. Thailand's challenge is to ensure that risk-return scale continues to tip in its favor."

Billions invested

No wonder more than $1 billion was invested in Thailand by global automakers in 2010, with another $1.2 billion expected this year. In 2011, Mitsubishi Motors is opening its $520 million Global Small Concept Vehicle Center in Thailand, its largest investment outside Japan. In recent years, according to Asean Analyst magazine, six of the world's top auto makers have based their fuel-efficient car production in Thailand such as the Ford Fiesta, Honda Brio and Nissan March, making the country the emerging global hub for fuel-efficient eco-friendly car manufacturing.

In stark contrast, early this month the Philippines earned the dubious honor of ranking No. 4 in the list of the World's 10 Worst Countries for Business compiled by CNBC.com. The PH was noted to have failed to garner any significant investment, attracting only 0.5 percent of the $76.5 billion of foreign direct investment for the Asean member countries in 2010. CNBC.com rankings take into account leading indicators such as the ease of starting a business, getting construction permits, paying taxes and investor protection laws.

"Despite having massive untapped mineral wealth, a key geographical location between Southeast and North Asia with a large, growing English-speaking population, the Philippines has fallen behind its neighbors in economic growth," CNBC.com said. "The country also ranks among the lowest when it comes to enforcing contracts and resolving insolvency, with the latter taking more than five and a half years."

The PH's "unstable legal system, violence and bureaucracy" (aka red tape) were also cited. The cost of electricity, the highest in Asia, should have been added. Meanwhile, in a World Bank report on the ease of doing business in 183 countries, the PH slid two notches lower from No. 134 in 2011 to No. 136 for 2012 while fellow Asean member Singapore topped the list at No. 1.

(Sources: WSJ, Reuters, Asean Analyst, CNBC.com)

Ford PH claims fastest-growing auto brand title

Going into full throttle, 'One Ford' to launch 8 more vehicles in 5 years

By Tessa R. Salazar

THE BLUE Oval trademark has made Ford one of the world's top brands, according to auto critic Giles Chapman. In 2004, Ford Motor was the 15th most valuable brand, according to BusinessWeek magazine's annual Global Brands Survey. Early this year, Ford Motor Company matched Toyota Motor Corp. as the most favorably viewed auto brand by US consumers in a survey released by Consumer Reports magazine.

But such is expected, however, for this automobile company responsible for bringing to the world the iconic Model T in 1908—the car that would turn millions of Americans into motorists and integrate mass production into carmaking.

Today, despite stiff competition from Japanese, Korean and European automakers, Ford is still a formidable global player, keeping alive the dreams of the early American industrialists. In fact, Ford is the aggressor in the Asian car market. In the Philippines, in particular, the drum roll for Uncle Sam's Blue Oval has become even louder. Not to sound cheesy, but we do feel a Fiesta coming on with this statement.

So the young, aggressive executives at Ford Philippines have just declared that 2011 has been their year, claiming that they are the "fastest-growing automotive brand in the Philippines this year," their overall year-to-date sales "continued to lead the industry."

They have the numbers to back this claim up. The January to October 2010 and 2011 year-to-date sales figures supplied by Ford Philippines show that the subcompact Fiesta enjoyed a 154-percent increase, the midsized SUV Everest 115 percent, the Explorer at 725 percent, the Ranger pick up at 100 percent, and the compact SUV Escape at 29 percent.

Ford Philippines said that 2011 has been a banner year. Its overall sales from January to October rose 58 percent year-over-year to 7,952.

For the month of October, Ford's retail sales jumped 161 percent year-over-year to 834 units, led by the continued success of the All-New Fiesta and popular Ford Everest as well as the launch of the All-New Ford Explorer.

8 more in 5 years

"To sustain our momentum, we will introduce eight more all-new One Ford vehicles in the Philippines over the next five years (the Ranger included)—significantly expanding our showroom lineup and introducing our brand to many new customer segments. And to support our growth, we are doubling our dealership network over the next five years," said Ford Philippines in a statement sent to Inquirer Motoring.

"Our One Ford plan is working. Customers' perception about the Ford brand continues to strengthen, thanks to our ongoing introduction of new products that are leading in quality, fuel efficiency, safety, smart design and value."

The statement added that "this product-led transformation of our business was marked by the launch of the all-new Ford Fiesta."

"We expect this will continue to gain momentum, and next month, with the recent launch of the all-new Ford Explorer this October and the all-new Ford Ranger later this year. Behind these great products is the hardworking and dedicated Ford team and dealer network who make things happen. They bring their best everyday so we can deliver to our customers."



Ford Model	Oct. 2010	Oct. 2011	% increase
Fiesta	98	248	154%
Everest	100	215	115%
Explorer	4	33	725%
Ranger	44	88	100%
Escape	66	85	29%

FORD Group Philippines president Randy Krieger (center) joins a team of motoring journalists in the launch of the new Ford Ranger in Chiang Rai, Thailand last week.



TOYOTA Motor Philippines Corp. officials, led by their president Michinobu Sugata, attend a send-off ceremony for the Saudi Arabia-bound technicians at the company plant in Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

Toyota deploys 26 Filipino technicians to Saudi Arabia

By Tessa R. Salazar

STA. ROSA, LAGUNA—Affirming the Filipinos' innate skills in automotive works and technologies, and global automotive giant Toyota's efforts in developing local manpower know-how, 26 Filipinos have been deployed to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to work for one of the world's largest Toyota distributors.

Among these 26 are Toyota Motor Philippines' cream-of-the-crop trainee graduates. Alex Benedict B. Bautista, 21, an automotive education technology graduate from the Technological University of the Philippines-Manila who hails from Quirino Province, is considered one of Toyota Education Program's "gems."

He recently finished an 18-month training program conducted by TMP-customer service operations to qualified graduates of the Toyota Technical Education Training Program partner schools with the objective of training technicians for the Pro-Technician level and certifying them to global standards. The program includes intensive training on various Toyota Technician and Pro-Technician technical courses, and on-the-job training at 13 Luzon and Metro Manila dealers to be exposed to actual workshop operations.



SUGATA (second from left) receives a plaque from managing director of Lap Hang Wong, managing director of Abdul Latif Jameel Co. Inc (ALJ), as Toyota executives Dr. David Bo (left) and Yuji Seno look on.

Miguel C. Pasilan, 23, who graduated from an automotive technology course at the Don Bosco Technical Institute in Makati, believes in a brighter future for himself after the training and after being given the opportunity by Toyota to be sent to the Middle East.

Alex and Miguel joined the first batch of Specialized Automotive Training Program graduates sent recently to Abdul Latif Jameel Co. Inc (ALJ) in Saudi Arabia. They and the other SATP graduates will be deployed as automotive technicians in ALJ.

In a short send-off ceremony at the Sta. Rosa plant, TMP president Michinobu Sugata officially endorsed the 26 technicians to Lap Hang Wong, managing director of ALJ's giant service operations. ALJ is the exclusive distributor of Toyota, Lexus and Daihatsu vehicles in Saudi Arabia, and is the seventh largest Toyota distributor worldwide.

Highly regarded in Saudi

"In the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and within the automotive service trade, Filipino technicians are regarded with quality service skills," said Wong in his speech during the ceremony. "They are, therefore, highly regarded and it is not unusual for Saudi customers to request that their vehicles be serviced or repaired by Filipino technicians."

Sugata said: "Indeed, this program is beneficial to our Global Toyota Dealer Network and most of all, a great opportunity for our SATP graduates."

He declared, "To all of you, your hard work and determination proved that you are worthy of this great opportunity to work in ALJ. Make your country proud!"

Bautista was asked to share his training experience during the ceremony. He said: "For the 18-month training that they let us [have] with the dealers, and the classroom training here in TMP, we learned a lot. We learned about the things that, though we already knew theoretically, we were given a chance to, as they will say in Japanese, 'genchi genbutsu.' We were able to see it with our own eyes, able to think on what we may do, and able to do what we thought of. We are also thankful (to TMP) for teaching us how to diagnose different types of cars and how we may fix them, and for making us understand the technology behind automobiles."

Bautista said that the greatest thing that happened to his group in this program was to have been given the opportunity to carry out "our dreams of working and having a brighter future. This is our first step in fulfilling our dreams of providing for our family and giving them a comfortable life. And most of all, SATP taught us how to strive hard to attain our dreams. In return, we will do our best to give back all that you invested. We will not waste the opportunity this program has given us. We will apply what we have learned here in the job waiting for us at ALJ."

Sacrifice worth making

By Charles E. Buban

FOR 14 young students, being separated from family and friends for two years is a sacrifice worth making.

"If we just stayed home, we will only be continuing the cycle of poverty that my family and my community are in to. For generations we have been subsisting through farming or fishing, which is barely enough to feed us much more uplift our standard of living," relates Noel Gracela, a 21-year-old who hailed from the town of Pilar in Camotes Island, Cebu.

Gracela has just graduated top of his class, composed of 14 students who took the automotive course funded by Isuzu Motors Limited of Japan in cooperation with the Tacloban, Leyte branch of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, Plan Philippines, and Isuzu Philippines Corp.

Gracela, who graduated top of his class, relates that he was just fortunate to have been selected by Plan Philippines, a Spanish NGO working with underprivileged children living in depressed towns of Occidental Mindoro, Northern Samar, Eastern Samar, Western Samar, Masbate, Cebu and Southern Leyte.

"I was already content working for my father who has a small motorcycle repair shop so as chance would have it, I passed their requirements," said Gracela who is scheduled to work at Isuzu Davao as an automotive mechanic.

More valuable diploma

According to Isuzu Motors Limited chair Yoshinori Ida, their Filipino graduates possesses a much more valuable diploma as they are now NC IV qualified.

An NC4 is the highest level of certification that is offered in the country and only Isuzu Florida Auto Mechanic Training Center in Tacloban, Leyte, currently offers this.

The graduating trainees also got an NC II certification in driving as well as training in car servicing business, customer relations, and planning.

"Immediately after graduation, our students will be assigned to undertake on-the-job training at Isuzu sales and service offices around the Philippines if not in other automotive workshops. We already gave them the skills, it's now their chance to change their state," Ida said.

Heart & Smile project

To date, the P120 million Isuzu Florida Auto Mechanic Training Center has already accepted over 100 trainees, and more than 80 have already graduated and have been deployed for work.

Opened in 2008, the training center is a product of IML's Heart & Smile project of IML to upgrade the skills of young Filipinos in automotive technical training.

The training facility houses a two-story automotive workshop complete with training tools and equipment, 100-bed dormitory for boys and girls, cafeteria, and a multi-purpose covered court. The training equipment, including vehicles, costs P70 million.



TRAINEES show their skills as Ida observes.

With training modules provided by Isuzu, Isuzu Motors Limited spends about P300,000 for each student, taking care of their board and lodging as well as supplying them with uniforms, notebooks and uniforms.

Technical know-how

"Isuzu provided us technical know-how, even sending Japanese instructors to teach us. To be able to study here is almost unbelievable considering that my family could not afford to support my education," said third placer Amarah Mae Macas, a 21-year-old daughter of a fisherman from Pintuyan, Southern Leyte.

With the education these 14 graduates earned, IPC president Ryoji Yamazaki is confident that very soon, the Philippines will have a competent and world-class auto mechanics that could be the country's key to achieving world recognition.

"We really want these kids to succeed in life so in each graduation, we brought along our business partners to observe them. We even provide them cash bonus to really help them face the real world," Yamazaki said.

BMW celebrates market leadership with Joyfest Xpo

By Jason K. Ang

ASIAN CARMAKERS Corporation (ACC), BMW exclusive distributor in the Philippines, is opening a 10-day BMW Xpo called the Joyfest, running from Nov. 18 to 27, 9 am to 6 pm at BMW dealerships nationwide. The event is a celebration of BMW's market leadership, both in the month of October, and in sales to date (655 units).



THE BMW Vision EfficientDynamics Concept Car used in the new Mission Impossible Ghost Protocol movie.

The sales event features exclusive financing rates for brand new and pre-owned BMWs. Glen F. Dang, executive director, Sales & Marketing of Asian Carmakers Corporation, says "BMW buyers can expect a variety of models on hand that they can avail through a 0% interest for 60 months payment scheme. Suffice to say this is the best time to buy with the best offer available."

The brand is also marking its tie-up with the new movie Mission: Impossible Ghost Protocol, starring Tom Cruise and directed by Brad Bird. Customers who purchase during the Joyfest will get the chance to see the BMW Vision Efficient Dynamics Concept Car at the December 13 world premiere of the movie in Singapore.

Ten winners with their companions will fly to Singapore for a three-day trip inclusive of hotel accommodations and airfare.

The BMW Vision EfficientDynamics Concept Car, seen in the movie's trailer, accelerates from 0 to 100 km/h in 4.8 seconds, and has a fuel efficiency of 26 km/liter. In BMW speak, it combines the power of an M model with the fuel-sipping habits of a compact car. The drivetrain is a plug-in hybrid, pairing a three-cylinder common-rail turbo diesel and an electric motor on each axle.

So you can save the world while having the ultimate experience behind the wheel, just like IMF agent Ethan Hunt.



SCENE STEALER



CONSIDERED the oldest Ford car in the country, this 1930's Ford Model A will be displayed together with other notable vintage and classic cars at the Newport Mall, Resorts World Manila from Nov. 22 to 29 to commemorate the evolution of the automobile.

SNEAK PEEK:

2012 BMW 1 Series

By Jason K. Ang





THE new 1 Series five-door has a mean, aggressive face, a pair of bulging one-piece headlamps and an enormous twin-kidney grille.

What is it:

BMW's compact hatchback, the German brand's smallest and cheapest car among its current offerings. As the 3 Series has grown bigger and more luxurious, drawing closer to the executive-sized 5 Series, it leaves a gap open for a car that harks back to the brand's roots in producing a compact car that's also a premium driving machine. Enter the 1 Series, now in its second generation.

Design:

The new 1 Series five-door has a mean, aggressive face, accentuated by a pair of bulging one-piece headlamps and an enormous twin-kidney grille. Thanks to the front engine, rear-wheel drive layout, the car has a rob-crafted stance, with a long hood and cabin set far backward from the front wheels. The car does look bigger, and it is—85 mm longer, 17 mm wider, and 30 mm longer wheelbase.

BMW promises a youthful interior, with dashboard center panel angled towards the driver, and layered interior surfaces. There's 20 mm more legroom for the rear passengers, alleviating the 1 Series' reputation as the only two-seater, four-door car. From the luggage space gains 30 liters, with split-folding rear seats capable of expanding capacity to 1,200 liters total.

Engine and transmission:

We couldn't quite get BMW Philippines/ACC to send us a sell-doctrct message containing the new car's specs since they're launching the vehicle this week but here's the deal: there will be a choice of all-new four-cylinder petrol and diesel power. All main feature twin turbos. The 116i and 118i are both powered by 1.6-liter engines, in different states of tune. The 116i delivers 136 hp/220 Nm and is good for a 0-100 km/h time of 8.5 seconds. The 118i ups the power to 170 hp/250 Nm, and acceleration time drops to 7.4 seconds, on to a top speed of 224 km/h. It's the first time that twin turbos have been applied to BMW's four cylinder production engines.

The diesel 120d, the probable choice for the launch vehicle, will have 184 hp and 380 Nm, for a 7.2-second acceleration time, coupled with the high fuel efficiency that BMW's diesels are known to deliver.

The car will be available with an eight-speed automatic, the abundance of gears giving better performance and efficiency. Engine Auto Start-Stop will also be a likely standard feature.

Suspension:

The BMW 1's reputedly perfectly balanced weight distribution is abetted by its sporty suspension. The front struts are made mostly from aluminum. The rear uses a five-link independent setup. Dynamic traction control pairs with an electronically locking rear differential to help maintain traction in corners.

Positioning:

The 1 Series may be BMW's smallest car, but it is not exactly an entry-level model. The 3 Series offers more practicality, while the 1 should offer a tauter and more exciting driving experience with its compact chassis and tight setup. Despite the 1 Series being the brand's most affordable car, it is replete with all of the brand's latest technology.

Built in:

BMW's Regensburg plant, along the twisty roads leading to the Bavarian Forest.

Driving the Porsche 991 Carrera S in America



I HAVEN'T been to the United States for 15 years, so coming back was going to be a big shock. Thankfully, Porsche chose the hilly seaside Santa Barbara Region for the launch of the Porsche 991 Carrera S. When I asked Dieter, a Porsche working in the Porsche Museum why Porsche chose California, he said it best represents what the 911 lifestyle is about: cool, relaxed, yet sophisticated, free-spirited and adventurous. Santa Barbara is a small, uber-upscale community 150 miles north of Los Angeles. I've never seen a high concentration of luxury cars, sports cars and premium SUVs in one place with mega-million dollar homes. It seems like everyone here forgot the economic downturn the rest of the US is facing.

More importantly though for me, I would get a chance to drive the 991 Carrera S on some of the best driving roads in America, albeit closely following the speed limit. Our driving route consisted of a 150-mile drive through coastal roads, the freeway, mountain passes and really tight, barely five-meter wide and heavily crowned slip roads through farmlands and vineyards. It was a good mix as we were able to try out the all-important improvements made to the 991 from the previous 997 sports car.

At speed, the 991 impresses deeply. The driving position can be set nice car low, and the refinement, comfort and stability are impressive. Which was a trouble as Porsche executives kept begging us to observe the speed limits. Often, I'd find myself nudging close to 90 mph as I was minding my conversation with my driving partner, and there were empty, deserted stretches with no cops around which was too great to resist; we'd floor it all the way to 4th gear then quickly slow down to the posted speed limits simply because, rather than feeling the g-forces sink in, my new-found friend and I just wanted to hear that marvelous flat-six on trailing throttle.

Out on the make-shift handling track at the nearby Santa Maria airfield, driving instructors demonstrated just how stupendous the 991 is, going faster than we thought was humanly, physically possible, the 991 seemingly defying once again the laws of Physics. I guess in that sense you can argue that Germans, despite their ultra-disciplined and efficient ways, are juvenile at heart, wanting to push the boundaries of the Laws of Physics in eking out more performance from the 991. I went out on the handling track as often as I could, making the annoyance of the instructors as they wanted to close the track already while I still wanted one more time. You can never have enough track time in a 911.

The 911 proves itself to special to me as well. No other car feels as stable and composed at high speeds as a 911. Rather than using superlatives which fail to express how I feel about it, I can describe it as a more physical manner. It feels like a rush in its solidity, and combines the best of the bigger active abilities of a rally replica like a Lancer Evo or Subaru STI, yet refining the chassis with higher levels of grip, speed and acceleration, plus comfort and refinement. I also perceive the 911 to be a very human car. Like us, the 911 is flawed in concept, with a big heavy weight sticking out at the back, increasing pendulum-like tendencies at high cornering speeds. But with almost 50 years of careful fine-tuning and evolution, the 911 is pretty much perfect in that it feels like an organic experience, a proper driver's car which continues to reward you many years after you first drove it. And as your skill grows just like a computer game, you unlock new, higher levels of performance in a 911 of any generation. Much like humans who with age, become better.

Next week: The full feature on the new 911.



THE AUTHOR'S latest test-drive experience brought him to Santa Barbara, California for a date with the newest Porsche.

Derek to the point: EastWest Bank' fascinating auto loan story

By Raquel P. Gomez

HUNK, HEARTTHROB and huge fan of cars Derek Ramsay is EastWest Bank's "bankable" personality to promote ongoing campaigns to entice their customers to open an account. Or better, to get an auto loan.

The bank has an ongoing free-gas promo, where approved loan applicants get up to P30,000 in free fuel. Another is the "Dream Big Win Big" raffle, the bank's biggest promo to date that gives away a one-bedroom condominium unit with parking space at The Beaufort, two Mercedes-Benz Smart sedans, and P1.7 million in cash prizes to lucky depositors and auto-loan clients.

As the bank's brand ambassador, Ramsay personifies EastWest Bank's confident and achieving personality, according to Antonio Moncupa Jr., EastWest Bank president and CEO. "He's fresh, has a good image, and is really a very nice guy," while adding that the fast celebrity who loves to drive cars well go on out-of-town trips, reflects EastWest Bank's refreshed and invigorated image.

Moncupa said the bank has been undergoing a renewal process of sorts in the last five years by being more aggressive at expanding its base and reach, and more focused on making the brand known.

EastWest Bank is currently one of the fastest-growing banks in the country today. Fifty percent of its portfolio of products constitute consumer loans, which has been experiencing speedy growth, particularly the said products. The bank's auto loans likewise has increased significantly helping the bank maintain its position as the sixth largest provider of auto loans in the country.

EastWest Bank's free gas promo, which will end on Nov. 30, has already given a total of P3 million worth of free gas to auto loans clients, Moncupa said. EastWest Bank is the only bank that provides such generous come-ons to auto loan clients.

Ramsay is a firm believer of the brand he endorses. He said his entrepreneur parents have been clients of the bank since 1994. The family business grew with borrowed money from the bank, enabling Ramsay's parents to hire up to 200 employees as well as provide Ramsay and his brood a comfortable life.

"They worked hard, paid their debts faithfully, and now have around 300 employees. They sent us children to good schools and gave us a comfortable life. That would not have happened if they didn't take the risk.

"This is why I believe in EastWest Bank's Auto Loan program," said Ramsay. It enables the consumer to purchase his dream car and see places, too. Through EastWest Bank's Auto Loan program, the consumer can drive up to his dream places—plus more.

The bank also offers the fastest turnaround for approval, said Ramsay.

Moncupa said the bank has been aggressively expanding as well, "pushing loan products and lending more to consumers." Now with 180 branches, there are plans to expand the number to more than 300 in five years' time, with Moncupa stating EastWest Bank also hopes to breach its P200-billion net worth this year.

This year marks a new era for the bank, which is preparing to go public and join the big league. "We want to create a little noise, and the gesture is to re-launch the bank," says Moncupa.

EastWest Bank opened its doors to the public on August 1, 1994. The bank is a subsidiary of the Filinvest Development Corporation (FDC), the publicly listed holding company of the Filinvest Group that evolved from a consumer business founded by Andrew L. Gotianun Sr. in 1955.



EASTWEST Bank Auto Loan Brand Ambassador Derek Ramsay and Antonio C. Moncupa Jr., president and CEO of EastWest Bank



RAMSAY with EWB officers, from left, Lynne Boncan, Mikel Pallomo, Jeanne Perez, Joy Legaspi, Mabel Recitera, Gerry Magsbato, Butch Ramos, VP and head of auto loans sales division



PATTY Laurel, EWB vice president Allan Tuvilaga, EWB senior assistant vice president Joanna Nañes Duran and Ramsay

LIFESTYLE Home & Entertaining





Chito Antonio gives Our Very Own a new spin





From a National Artist father and fashion-legend mother, he's known Filipino luxury and sophistication molded by our multicultural heritage

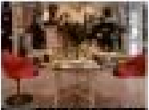


Artisan products

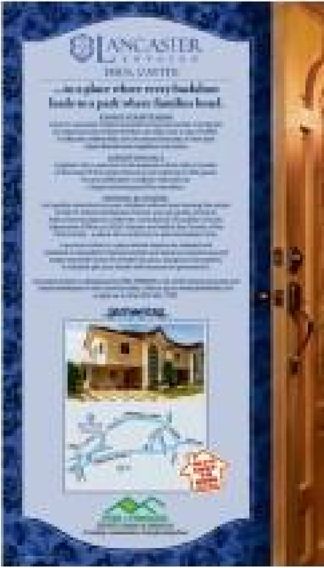




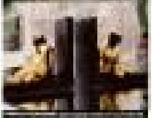
Chito Antonio gives Our Very Own a new spin












Chito Antonio gives Our Very Own a new spin

From page C3

plates are adorned with Christmas baubles and toy trains that play against the sleekness of the Portuguese flatware with black resin handles. The red reindeer napkin picks up the green from the garnish on the plate.

The festive energy is reflected in the glasses etched with swirls and twirls and angels in candleholders. The table is adorned with little metallic Indian spheres and purple flowers. An all-white floral centerpiece of lilies, on a silver plate, cushioned by matte and shiny green balls, anchors all the elements.

Antonio points out that one need not use expensive objects. At Rustan's Tower, Antonio created a table setting using bamboo-patterned plates and flatware with resin bamboo handles. Although they are modestly priced, they look rich when set atop a placemat made of polished, spotted shagreen, the sandwich from stingray and juxtaposed with Schott Zwiesel stemware and his silver-leaf cordless that double as candleholders.

The title "creative director" has yet to be conferred. Still, Antonio looks at his new endeavor as an outlet for his artistic expression. His work isn't about selling a lifestyle, which most shoppers of Rustan's already have, but more of reminding them of a life with style.











LIFESTYLE Home & Entertaining



Shangri-La plus Nutcracker equals Christmas magic

Moms who rock, kids who rule







NUTCRACKER doll and ballerina



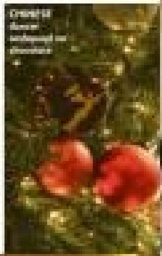
Shangri-La plus Nutcracker equals Christmas magic

For the 10th year, florist Tony Rodriguez is decorating the hotel for the holidays

By Marge C. Enriquez





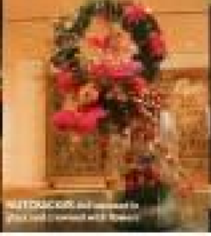






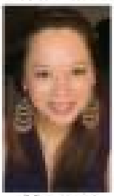








The courtesy of an RSVP



Liz S. Bernardo

MODERN MANNERS

Take two minutes of your time to simply say yes or no to someone who has thought of you, and would value your presence in their affair



COMPLEMENT the loft unit's vertical space with interesting wall murals and abstract prints

Creative designing tips for your perfect loft

Hotel bags multiple Asian hospitality awards

Children's fashion hits the ramp for Fashion Week













Buying used goods may not be a bad thing

To save hard-earned cash, try visiting thrift stores, yard sales and online buying-and-selling sites

The Consumer
Linda B. Bolido

24-hour depository

LIFESTYLE Parenting



What if Mommy D had tried to talk Manny out of boxing? Would it have worked? How much influence does a parent have on a child's athletic life?

Audrey Tan-Zubiri



MAMA DIARIES

Can your child be the next Olympic champ?

AS I SAT on the edge of my seat, watching Manny Pacquiao slug it out with Juan Manuel Marquez, I suddenly had a thought. What if Manny had decided, many years ago, to hang up his gloves and go to work instead, wherever he could find it?

We all know his rags to riches story, and it would not be difficult to picture a scene with Mommy Dionisia telling a then teenage Manny to quit fooling around with his boxing gigs and to get a job to help the family. Whether this happened or not, I do not know. What can be confirmed is that, at the age of 14, due to poverty, Manny left GenSan to try his luck in Manila. Two years later, he began his boxing career and the rest, as they say, is history.

But for the sake of argument, let's just say that Mommy D did try to talk Manny out of boxing. Would it have worked? How much influence does a parent have on a child's athletic life?

A lot, if we are to base it on the experiences of some of the best athletes we have. SEA Games medalist and Olympic swimmer-turned-super mom and host Christine Jacob-Sandejas, has this to say about how she developed her passion for swimming:

"My father (Roger Jacob) loved the outdoors, especially the sea, and he wanted us to learn how to swim. Lucky for us, the Polo Club had an active swim program, so we started to join swim meets which led me to swimming in the Olympics."

But her parents did not stop at simply introducing her to the sport. They "were always there during my swim meets or my brothers' tennis and soccer matches," she shares.

Today, as a mother to five beautiful children, Christine and her husband Paco try to "expose our kids to as many sports as possible so that they, too, can find one that they are passionate about."

While Christine makes sure that all of her brood can swim well, it is primarily for the sake of safety. None of her kids have developed the passion for swimming, but she still has two small children who might just surprise her. At the end of the day whether they choose swimming or any other sport, it doesn't matter. Christine will be there to support her kids' choices.

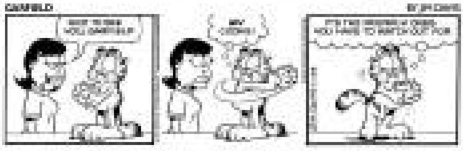
Ignited his passion

Though former Ateneo basketball player now Smart-Gilas Philippine Team Captain Chris Tiu's parents enrolled him in practically every sports clinic/workshop available, it was basketball that truly ignited his passion

OLYMPIC B4

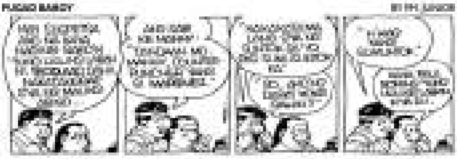


GARFIELD

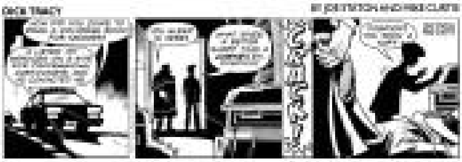


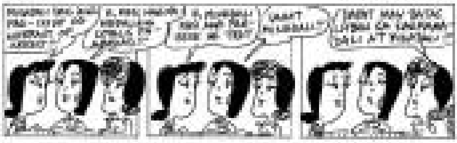


PUGAD BABOY

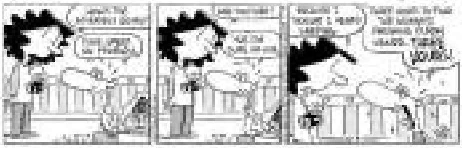


DICK TRACY



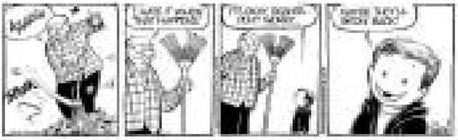


BABY BLUES

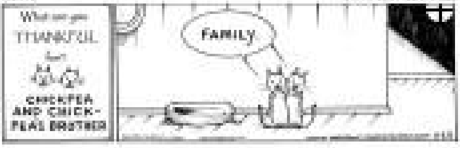




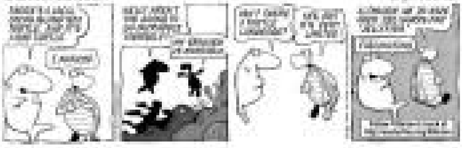
BEN



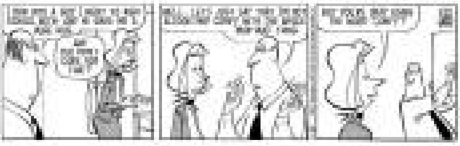
MUTTS



SHERMAN'S LAGOON



DUSTIN



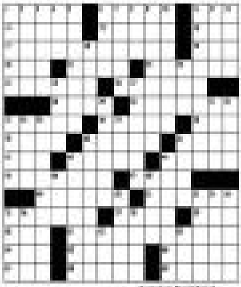


CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

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	8			1			9	
	5	6	3		7	4	8	

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



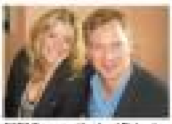

“MAMMA MIA!” leading men Matthew Lloyd Davies, Richard Standing, Charles Daish


CHOREOGRAPHY at its best with a splendid cast of female and male dancers


YOUNG, gorgeous actress Charlotte Wakefield takes her well-deserved bow at the finale


THE PALACE Theatre in Manchester where we watched “Mamma Mia!”


RESIDENT director Ian Waller and David Reiners


SARA Poyzer and husband Richard Standing


INCREDIBLE male dancers


BEAUTIFUL scene in “Mamma Mia!”


THE THREE leading ladies of “Mamma Mia!”: Kate Graham, Jennie Dale (far right) and the woman at the center of the love triangle, Sara Poyzer

‘Mamma Mia!’ to open January 2012 in Manila

FLASHBACK: MAMMA MIA! When we were invited to jet off to London on one of the fastest airlines to get you to Europe, KLM's Royal Dutch Airlines (where we were pampered like royalty with meals provided by Michelin-awarded chef Jonnie Boer of De Librije, no less), we got to watch “Stomp”, which was an awesome success at the CCP recently.

The trip also allowed us to scream, dance and sing our hearts out while watching one of the world's most successful musical shows, “Mamma Mia!” This was in Manchester—all thanks to our host, Lunchbox Theatrical Productions and its CEO, James Cundall, who has staged hit musical shows around the globe.

So, dahlings, all signs are pointing to an extraordinary musical experience we'll be having in Manila with “Mamma Mia!,” brought in to us by Lunchbox Theatrical Productions and the awesome lady behind Concertus Inc., [illegible], along with David Sibbia Enterprises and Hi-Definition Radio Inc. of Pamela Lanzon, Orchard and Smart Infinity.

Upon arrival in Manchester, we were met by Richard Abbot of Lunchbox Theatrical, who brought us directly to our hotel, the Art Deco-designed Palace Hotel. After relaxing in an excellent lunch at the hotel, we were off to the Palace Theater to interview the talented cast of “Mamma Mia!”

This highly enjoyable musical has been named “the world's No. 1 musical global smash hit,” dahlings. Based on the songs of Abba, it first opened at London's West End, then in Melbourne in Australia, followed by Broadway in New York and now in Manchester, which has had a month's run by the time we arrived—and still the queue for tickets was a block long!

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache



Photos by [illegible]

Once the curtain went up, the energy in the theater was just incredible. The audience became part of each segment of the show, with everyone singing along to the songs. It was a hilariously funny show, colorful and just so entertaining, such that the audience couldn't stop themselves from standing up from their seats and clapping endlessly to the songs hits by the '70s Swedish group Abba. Today's generation will know and dance to their songs, as the younger ones will also enjoy this musical.

Timeless songs

“Mamma Mia!” has been thrilling audiences around the world since its debut in 1999. It has been seen by over 4 million people in countries as diverse as China, Lithuania, Greece, Taiwan, Hungary, New Zealand and, most recently, Serbia and Austria.

The storytelling magic of Abba's timeless songs propels this enchanting tale of love, laughter and friendship. Abba's songs and music composers, Benny Andersson and Björn Ulvaeus, helped in the development of “Mamma Mia!” from the very beginning, using the band's unforgettable chart-topping hits like “Dancing Queen,” “Take A Chance On Me” and “The Winner Takes It All.” The musical has been translated into 14 languages.

The Broadway production of “Mamma Mia!” celebrated its 10th anniversary last October. “Mamma Mia!” is written by Catherine Johnson, directed by Phyllida Lloyd and choreographed by Anthony Van Laast. The production is designed by Mark Thompson with additional material and arrangements by Martin Koch. The international tour is produced by Judy Craymer, Richard East and Björn Ulvaeus for Littlestar, in association with Universal, Stage Entertainment and [illegible].

The night we watched the show, we felt the same thrill, excitement and pure nostalgia I had felt the very first time I saw it onstage.

Next day we were back in London and saw a couple of other musical shows such as “Dirty Dancing” and “We Will Rock You,” which had music by Queen this time.

Last-minute shopping

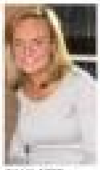
The group was then off to do its last-minute shopping, while our pleasant tour guide to [illegible] Entertainment's Pocholo Concepcion, since it was his first trip to London, I brought him to Piccadilly Circle, Trafalgar Square, Oxford and Regent Streets, among other must-see places. Pepper Teehankee, Tim Yap, Today's Vicky de Leon and I then went to Victoria & Albert Museum to view the exhibit of the multitalented [illegible]. The exhibit featured clothes and designs from his earliest designing days to the present, plus a couple of his main pieces.

Then it was back to reality as we flew home via KLM's awesome service and smooth flight. Can't wait to see “Mamma Mia!” again starting Jan. [illegible], 2012, at CCP, dahlingggs.

For tickets, visit [illegible] or call [illegible]. Tickets are from P750 to P7,000. Senior citizens enjoy a 20-percent discount.

All tickets available at all TicketWorld outlets, selected branches of [illegible] and TicketWorld Office at [illegible] Ayala Ave. [illegible] Madrigal Bldg., Makati. To book, call [illegible] or visit www.ticketworld.com.ph


L-R: associate producer Rachel Abbott, “Mamma Mia!” company manager Lloyd Martin and [illegible]


CHARLOTTE Wakefield


KATE Graham, Sara Poyzer and Jennie Dale


SCENE from “Dirty Dancing” the musical


AT THE EUSTON train station on our way to Manchester: Pepper Teehankee, Pocholo Concepcion, Therese Garceau, Tim Yap, Vicki de Leon and me


VIEW from KLM's Business Class lounge


TWO of our friendly and efficient KLM air attendants


PO, Vicki and Tim Yap at Victoria & Albert Museum


PALACE Theatre in Manchester, where the musical “Mamma Mia!” is playing


DESIGNER [illegible] bag and gown on exhibit at Victoria & Albert Museum


THERESE Garceau and Pepper Teehankee


AND in front of a London public phone booth at the [illegible] market in Covent Garden







CHRISTINE Jacob-Sandejas with her kids

Can your child be the next Olympic champ?

Journal for solo moms

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor: Emmie G. Velarde

OPRAH, on launching "Oprah's Next Chapter" on Jan. 1: "After 25 years I got myself out of the studio chair. I moved into the next chapter, and I am having more fun than ever—moving around the country and the world talking to people I'm really interested in getting to know, and I think viewers will be, too." Reuters

HEARD



SHARON Cuneta with manager Vic Del Rosario, who says the transfer is "not about money."

Mega Kapatid

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

SHARON CUNETA was set to sign up with TV5 yesterday. A highly-placed source told the Inquirer that the "official" contract signing was supposed to take place in Hong Kong later this week between the singer-actress, known in the country as "Megastar," and network big boss Manny V. Pangilinan, but that it had to be fast-tracked after the Inquirer confirmed the transfer on Sunday.

A HK ceremony is still pushing through, said the source.

Speculation

There has been much speculation about Cuneta's TV5 deal—with figures like P1 million per taping day, to a P600-million package, to a whopping P1-billion, five-year contract going the rounds.

Viva Entertainment big boss Vic del Rosario, who is also Cuneta's manager, told the Inquirer that the TV5 contract would be "commensurate with her stature in the industry."

Del Rosario quickly pointed out, however: "It's not about money. It's about being happy and being able to do the kind of shows that she wants. It's the whole package."

Nightly talk

According to the Inquirer source, Cuneta is set to do a nightly prime-time talk show with TV5. "It will have different components—one is 'Wish Upon a Mega,' in which Sharon will fulfill the dreams of chosen viewers." Another source said TV5 is "carefully studying" the format.

Del Rosario explained: "[Cuneta] was happy with ABS-CBN, her former station, but she no longer has a contract."

Pressed about the terms of

PAGE F4

Sharon Cuneta signed a deal yesterday with TV5. 'You want to go where you are appreciated,' she said in a recent interview.



High-flying gay likes 'em da

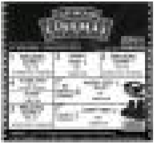




Mega Kapamil











ngerous







Int'l Emmys to bonor 'Idol' producer

DID YOU KNOW...



Kimerald 2: Gerald says, 'I miss her'

Very busy

In the mood

ENTERTAINMENT



Ms D wants a boyfriend for Christmas

DOLLY WOOD



Dolly Anne Carvajal

Excited 'lolo'

Big lie!

Psycho-thriller

Seven overseas-based Fi







Life...

...ay beauties join Mutya pageant









'Life in the Fab Lane'

Now in its fourth season, a reality show starring Kimora Lee Simmons–model, author and entrepreneur who frowns upon TV offerings based on the personal lives of their hosts–aims to empower its viewers

By Jason Aguirre

KUALA LUMPUR—Fashion model/entrepreneur, book author and TV show host Kimora Lee Simmons says achieving success doesn't have to mean selling one's soul.

Here she refers to her popular reality show in the United States, "Kimora: Life in the Fab Lane," currently in its fourth season on E! Channel. The show discusses how Kimora juggles her life as fashion model and businesswoman, with three kids and two husbands—"ex an and the new"—and still remains fabulous.

Simmons, ex-CEO of Baby Phat clothing line and ex-wife of Russell Simmons, a.k.a. "Godfather of Hip-hop," manages a full line of clothing and accessories as CEO of her new company KLS Enterprises and president of JustFabulous, an online style of the month club. She has two kids with Simmons—Ming, 11 and Aoki, 9, and one with new partner, African-American Djimon Hounsou, an Oscar-nominated actor ("Blood Diamond"), 3-year-old Kenzo.

"There are 500 shows in America where they are always fighting and cursing, but my show is not like that. I think that's garbage," she tells Asian journalists in a press conference at the Ritz Carlton.

"I really feel that the stars of reality TV is going down. I'm not proud of that. I'm not proud of how women are depicted when you are fighting and scratching and cursing your man, and you are naked. My show (though it's become a bit) has some of that."

"Life in the Fab Lane," she says, revolves around her pursuits as a businesswoman, not her personal life. "I got a TV show because of my work and credibility in the fashion business, not because of fabulous things I do or crazy stuff..."

She continues: "Yes it has a lot of my husband, my children, but when it comes just a little exploitation, I back off. It's difficult to do a show with substance, if it's only substance in your life. That's a mistake that some people make."

When exposing and capitalizing on celebrities' relationships on reality TV are commonplace, Kimora notes, "It's very tough to have a relationship in front of TV cameras, so why I don't do that."

She says she aims to educate and show people that a glamorous life entails "a lot of hard work and a high price to pay." She believes the enthusiastic response to her show is the result of its authenticity. "Kind of being real and not being overly fabricated... because people see through that."

During the press con, suggestions for her to have a talk show are raised. She's not averse to the idea, as long as it's not "stuffy comedy." She elaborates, "I'd like it to be conversational... tackling lifestyle, fashion and politics."

As a model, she says, she has learned outward beauty is not a solid foundation for a career. "What if I get hit by car, break my hip—is my career over? I am the first model to turn my life experience into a lifestyle business and a million-dollar brand. That's what I want to share with viewers."

Born 'different'

With an African-American dad and Asian mom, Simmons was dubbed by Chanel designer Karl Lagerfeld as "the new face of the 21st century."

"Lagerfeld was right about that years ago," she says. "Now, the more 'mixed' you are, the more acceptable you become."



HER STYLE is to be real, "not overly fabricated, because people see through that."

Born poor and "different," Kimora had to work her way through the fashion industry dynamic.

Earlier, in school, she was a victim of bullying because of, curiously, her height. She was the "chinky giraffe." Her mother enrolled her in a modeling class when Kimora was 11—and already standing 5'10".

She grew up in St. Louis, Missouri, where no one looked like her. "The kids were either black or white, and if you were mixed, it was like, whoa! And to be raised like me, half-American and half-Asian, I was like, I don't know, garbage!" This made her, she says, "feisty, stronger and thicker skinned."

At 13, Kimora was discovered by Paris Agency Glamour and started modeling for Chanel. She has since landed the covers of fashion magazines Vogue, Elle and Harper's Bazaar, and modeled for Christian Dior, Patrick Kelly and Yves Saint Laurent.

Being fabulous, she stresses, is being beautiful inside out, outside in.

New meaning

"I choose for my life to perpetuate this message of positivity for all colors, races, ethnic background and religion. I want people to realize that beauty comes in all shapes and sizes."

She isn't guided by any fashion rule, apart from simply doing what one wants. "You should embrace and express yourself, do things that make you feel great. Sometimes simple clothes and a little makeup make you confident—it has nothing to do with money. You are what you are. It has to come up from the inside, and don't go naked."

In 2009, the city of St. Louis, Missouri, proclaimed March 14 as "Kimora Day" but, she says, every day is her day and every woman should feel that way.

Two years prior, in 2008, her

SPS [illegible]